# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HOME AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:967
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2006
PERFORMANCE OF INTER- STATE COUNCIL
Murmu Shri Hemlal

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3823 on May 16, 2006 and state:

(a) the action taken by the Government on representations received from Greater Cooch Behar People`s Association; and

(b) the performance of Inter-Sate Council, Zonal Council or other Council/Commission for settlement of Centre-State problems and encouraging balanced socio-economic development in concerned zones during the last three years and current year as on date, separately?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a): The Government had examined the demands made in the representations received from Greater Cooch Behar People`s Association. It appeared that there was nothing illegal or unconstitutional in the Instrument of Accession or the Merger Agreement, signed by the Maharaja of Cooch Behar in accordance with the Indian Independence Act, 1947 read with the relevant provision of the Government of India Act, 1935. The merger of the State of Cooch Behar with West Bengal from 1.1.1950 under the States Merger (West Bengal) Order 1949 also appeared to be legal and valid. Further, no other issue in the Merger Agreement remained unimplemented. The representations received from Greater Cooch Behar People`s Association were also discussed with concerned officials of the Government of West Bengal. The present dissatisfaction of the people of Cooch Behar seemed to emanate from economic backwardness of Cooch Behar. The representations were, therefore, forwarded to the Government of West Bengal, with a request to take appropriate action and initiate measures, both in the short term and long term, to address the issue of economic backwardness of the area.

(b): During the last three years and current year as on date, two meetings of the Inter-State Council were held which inter alia discussed Centre-State matters such as Sarkaria Commission recommendations relating to Administrative Relations, Emergency Provisions and Deployment of Union Armed Forces; Implementation Report on decisions taken by the Inter-State Council on the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission; Disaster Management-preparedness of States to cope with disasters. In its report submitted in 1988, the Sarkaria Commission had made 247 recommendations. The Inter State Council has since inception considered and taken a final view on all the recommendations through consensus.

Meetings of all five Zonal Councils were held in 2005. Issues relating to economic development in many sectors such as rural development, infrastructure, tourism, health, mining, power, etc were deliberated in these meetings.